Let us begin at the top. The High Court has disposed of a larger number of cases this year than in the previous year, but, nevertheless, the total pendency list at the end of the year increased. The new work that came before the Court showed a general increase. The District Courts revealed the same phenomenon, an increasing measure of outturn overborne by a growing accumulation of arrears. The figures are : the number of ordinary suits and small causes for disposal was 2,844, of which 997 cases were disposed of, leaving a balance of 1,847 cases, the corresponding figures of the previous year being 2,713, 931 and 1,782. Under appeals, the total number for disposal was 10,030, of which 4,069 were disposed of, leaving a balance of 5,961 cases, the figures for 1100 being 9,467, 3,638 and 5,829, respectively. The Judiciary is liberally manned. Why, then, does justice lag? The explanation lies in this. The High Court requires on an average 509 days for the disposal of a first appeal and 389 days for a second appeal. In the case of the District Courts, the average duration is 746 days for ordinary contested suits and 734 days for original small cause suits. In the case of uncontested cases, the duration is 343 days for ordinary suits and 331 days for original small cause suits. In the case of the Munsiffs' Courts, the average duration for the disposal of a contested ordinary suit is 422 days and for an uncontested suit 104 days. This Assembly is very much alive to the need for speeding up the administration of justice and has repeatedly pressed this upon the Government. The Government are at one with the Assembly; and during the last year they drew up proposals for the appointment of a committee to enquire into and suggest correctives for the law's delays. The matter was placed before the Legislative Council. They vetoed the proposed committee. And so the Government have turned to the High Court, confident that it will give special attention to the question of a general acceleration of disposals. It is a matter too in which the Bar can effectively co-operate.

20. Police.—There is nothing of special note to hold your attention in the regular work of the Police force. But in one direction it was felt that special arrangements were necessary to enable the department to exercise a prompter and more effective control over the irregular and careless ways of the large and growing fleets of motor vehicles plying for hire all over the State. Two additional Traffic Inspectors, qualified in motor mechanics, have been appointed and are now under training as Police Officers. The idea is to divide the motor roads of the State into three divisions, each in the charge of an Inspector.

21. Registration.—The partitions of property following upon the Nayar, the Ezhava and the Vellala Regulations have brought a large accession of work to the Registration Department. To cope with this, five new Sub-Registry offices were opened and the jurisdiction of several other offices was re-arranged so as to distribute the load.

22. Public Works.—As usual, the expenditure on works of public utility was not stinted, and nearly Rs. 30,50,000 was utilised by the P. W. D. Of this amount, only Rs. 4,31,000 was spent on buildings, both new constructions and repairs and maintenance. Practically, all the rest was spent on communications and irrigation works both reproductive and protective. About Rs. 1,60,000 was spent on bridges and culverts ; Rs. 1,20,000 went to improvement of canals ; and about Rs. 5,59,000 was devoted to new roads and special improvements to roads. Of the sum of Rs. 5,59,000, gentlemen from the northern and the central Travancore will be pleased to know that their needs received special consideration. Rs. 2,74,000 was expended on roads for the Kottayam Division and Rs. 1,55,000 on roads for the Quilon Division. Alleppey was until the other day accessible only by water communication. The completion of the Quilon-Alleppey road was specially expedtied by the Chief Engineer and motor traffic is now plying between Quilon and Alleppey. Another road to the construction of which special efforts have been directed is the Alleppey-Shertallai-Arur road. About Rs. 63,700 has been allotted towards the construction of this road during the current year and rapid progress is being made so that there will be through communication by road from our southern frontier, Aramboly, to Shertallai

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by the end of this year, and right up to the Cochin frontier in the course of the next year. The Western Outlet road, connecting the High Ranges with Muvattupuzha, having been irremediably damaged by the unprecedentedly heavy floods of 1099, a new line is being investigated to connect Muvattupuzha with Munnar *via* Mannankandam and Pallivasal adopting the old Valentine trace wherever possible. Two parties are already at work. The Delhi Palace was completed during the year, the total cost up to the end of 1101 being just under Rs. 3 lakhs.

23. The Capital.—General plans for the supply of water to Trivandrum town have been scrutinised and approved, and the work on the preparation of detailed estimates will shortly be undertaken. Orders are under issue for the deputation of a special staff to begin the preliminary work. Enquiries have also been instituted for the provision of electric light and power in Trivandrum.

24. Tank Restoration.—In the Trivandrum taluk, there have been evidences of paddy lands being converted into lands for dry cultivation owing to the deterioration of the storage tanks which irrigated them from time immemorial. As you are aware, a committee had been appointed to investigate the question of minor irrigation in this region. The committee has reported, and after careful consideration orders have been passed approving a scheme which, it is hoped, will react to the advantage of cultivation in this taluk; and, as a matter of fact, restoration of the tanks has actually been begun during the year. The special staff for the investigation and execution of minor irrigation works in the several Divisions is being continued.

25. Railways.—The possibilities of railway extensions throughout the State have already been made public in a memorandum placed on the table of the Legislative Council a few months ago. The railway surveys are proceeding apace. The extension of the line from near Chakkai to the heart of Trivandrum town in the neighbourhood of Chalai has been decided upon, and the work in connection with it will be put in hand very soon. A site for the new station has been selected and plans are ready.

26. Agriculture.—You will see from the Director's Report that the Department of Agriculture continued to maintain the good record it had established by years of research and propaganda. Among its more important activities may be mentioned the continuance of the soil survey of Shertallai, the investigation of the sugar, starch and fibre resources of the State, the practical application of the results of the bio-chemical studies of *kari* and alkaline soils, the preparation of synthetic farm-yard manure and the utilisation of water hyacinth for manufacturing organic manure. It is encouraging to find that there was a decided improvement in the sale of scientific manures, selected seeds and improved implements.

27. Fisheries.—There is a large body of very industrious people along our coasts who are dependent upon fishing and fish-curing for their livelihood. I regret to say that during the past year they suffered considerably owing to very poor hauls of fish. In order to improve their condition it is proposed to open an additional fishery school at Alleppey; and as a preliminary two duly qualified Arayas are being deputed to Calicut and Madras for training in the industries connected with fishing. On their return after training they will be appointed as Head Master and as Technical Instructor in the school. An additional Fishery Inspector has been appointed and the Department of Fisheries has been constituted into three Divisions, each under the charge of an Inspector.

28. Industries.—The activities of the Technical Experts attached to the Industries Department were carefully directed and the enquiries patiently and unostentatiously pursued over a term of years are well-laid foundations upon which there are hopeful signs of the uprising of practicable and serviceable industries. The leather manufactured in the tannery has been reported on favourably. An instructional side is in contemplation. A scheme for the development of the bell-metal industry on a co-operative system by financial assistance and by finding foreign markets has been sanctioned. Proposals for the encouragement of cottage industries are now before the Government.

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